

article does not seem to make this subject less complex despite specific consideration of the clinical pictures, hereditary patterns, population genetics and biochemical genetics of the porphyrias. S. Sherlock discusses "The Genetic Aspects of Liver Disease Associated with Jaundice" in the fourth chapter. The presentation of several of the diseases is brief which may reflect the fact that in general these conditions have been poorly studied in regard to their genetic considerations. The final chapter, "Genetics of Muscular Dystrophy," by A. E. H. Emery and J. N. Walton is a clear discussion of these diseases. The current classification emphasizes the increasing number of different conditions which comprise the muscular dystrophies. These chapters represent current reviews by experts and thus can be profitably read by both physicians and geneticists. Generally, clinicians should not encounter much difficulty in following and understanding the genetics of the conditions discussed. As with most genetically determined diseases the conditions discussed are not especially common; however, the understanding of the pathogenesis of these conditions is important for those who wish to be informed of advances in modern medicine. The clinician should find the book of interest to read but probably will not elect to include it in a personal library unless he has special interest in the specific diseases or in medical genetics.

ROBERT S. SPARKES, M.D.

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SURGERY FOR ACQUIRED MITRAL VALVE DISEASE—F. Henry Ellis, Jr., M.D., Ph.D. (Surgery), F.A.C.S., Consultant, Section of Surgery, Mayo Clinic, and Professor of Surgery, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1967. 299 pages, illustrated, \$17.00.

This is a book which describes in detail the history of mitral valve surgery complete even with photographs of pioneers in the field, the preoperative assessment of mitral valve disease, operative methods, postoperative problems and long-term clinical results. The book is extremely well documented with extensive references. It is a book which was certain to be written, and Doctor Ellis has written it well. The author notes that any book of this type is out of date almost as soon as it leaves the publisher, and the very few paragraphs dealing with tissue valve replacement of the diseased mitral valve indicate how correct this prophesy can be. All in all this is an interesting book which should belong to specialists concerned with mitral valve disease whether at the diagnostic or therapeutic level.

NORMAN E. SHUMWAY, M.D.

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AMBROISE PARÉ—Surgeon of the Renaissance—Wallace B. Hamby, M.D., Head, Department of Neurological Surgery, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Formerly Professor of Neurological Surgery, University of Buffalo School of Medicine. Warren H. Green, Inc., 10 South Brentwood Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri (63105), 1967. 251 pages, \$9.50.

Ambroise Paré (c. 1510-1590), the most celebrated surgeon of the sixteenth century, is regarded by some as the father of modern surgery. Indeed, Geoffrey Keynes contended that Paré by reason of his personality, humanitarian outlook, and independence of mind was, in fact "the emancipator of surgery from the dead hand of dogma." Certainly he personified the highest ideals of surgery.

Of his personality and attitude of mind we know a great deal, especially as revealed in his own writings and notably from his autobiographical *Apologie* written towards the end of his long and productive life. Although

it is difficult to assess and evaluate fully the originality of his surgical contribution which would merit the outstanding position he has come to occupy in the history of surgery, he demonstrates, despite lack of a humanistic education, true kinship with the spirit of the late Renaissance through his intense desire for social and intellectual progress and realistic appeal *ab auctoritate ad rem*.

From the voluminous literature on Paré, the author has put together a lively and detailed account of the personal life of the master surgeon cast in the midst of contemporary political and social affairs. The account is strictly chronological following concurrently with descriptions of places and events associated with the peregrinations of a military surgeon in the train of the French forces during a most violent period in European history. Almost as counterpoint to the major conflicts are the staccato battles between barber-surgeons, surgeons of St. Come and physicians of the Faculté as they wrangled over rules, procedures and rights of publication affecting the personal surgeon to four kings of France and the foremost surgeon of the century.

If the story is told with a degree of unevenness due to the rigidities of the strict chronological approach and to some unevenness in style, the author can be forgiven since throughout he has been able to impart his own enthusiasm and affection for a fellow member of his own craft of surgery. Paré wrote his major works for the guidance and direction of young surgeons and apprentices in surgery. The young surgeon of today will find equal inspiration in Dr. Hamby's account of this great master of surgery.

J. B. DEC. M. SAUNDERS, M.D.

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TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE (Cecil-Loeb)—Twelfth Edition—Edited by Paul B. Beeson, M.D., Nuffield Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford; and Walsh McDermott, M.D., Livingston Farrand Professor of Public Health, Cornell University Medical College. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1967. Price: \$20.50, Single Volume, 1738 pp.; \$24.50, Two-Volume Set: Vol. 1, pp. 1-835 pp., Vol. 2, pp. 836-1738 pp. DeLuxe Two-Volume set: pagged as above, price \$30.00 Set.

ROENTGENOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS—A Complement in Radiology to the Beeson and McDermott Textbook of Medicine—Vols. I & II—J. George Teplick, M.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Radiology, Hahnemann Medical College; Marvin E. Haskin, M.D., F.A.C.P., Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiology, Hahnemann Medical College; and Arnd P. Schimert, M.D., formerly Associate Professor of Radiology, Hahnemann Medical College. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1967. Volume I, pp. 1 through 514, Volume II, pp. 515 through 1198, \$38.00 the set.

The 12th Edition of the Cecil-Loeb Textbook of Medicine in 40 years carries on in the tradition of excellence which has made it a prized possession of two generations of physicians. Again edited by Doctors Paul Beeson and Walsh McDermott it covers the many fields of disease while exploring in greater depth those conditions considered more important.

There are 169 contributors to this prestigious volume of 1738 pages. 226 of the articles are newly written and 57 are on subjects not included in the 11th Edition. There are major revisions of the sections on Diseases of Bone, Diseases of the Nervous System, Environmental and Physical Factors in Disease and Diseases due to Chemical Agents.

At the present time a new dimension has been added to this textbook. The editors and publishers have recognized the importance of and the need for roentgenography in the education of the modern physician. These are presented in two volumes of a new work entitled *Roentgeno-*